

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, comprising:

determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator and without using a Backward operator; and

determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator and without using a Forward operator [[,]] such that said steps of determining ~~being~~are mathematically decoupled; and

ranking said relevance based upon said authority weight and said hub weight.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight ~~of a~~for said node comprises:

choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weightsa node weight using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weightsa node weight and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~ are repeated until the node weight converges to a determined authority weighta constant value.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node comprises:

choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~ are repeated until the node weight converges to a determined hub weight~~a constant value~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~further~~ said step of ranking said relevance comprising:

determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, said step of ranking said relevance ~~further~~ comprising:

selecting a search term; and

displaying a ranking result.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, said step of ranking said relevance ~~further~~ comprising:

ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes comprising:

a calculator configured to calculate an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said node and a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node, using, respectively, a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator without using a Backward operator and a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Forward operator [[,]] such that said calculations ~~being~~are mathematically decoupled.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 7, wherein said calculator comprises:

a calculator configured to

accept as an input a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determine an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalize the determined updated vector of node weights;

test for convergence; and

to repeatedly determine an updated vector of node weights and normalize the determined updated vector of node weights until the node weight converges to a determined authority weight.

~~a calculator configured to iteratively calculate a node forward weight, normalize the node forward weight, and test for convergence until the node forward weight converges to a constant value.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 7, wherein said calculator comprises:

a calculator configured to

accept as an input a forward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determine an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalize the determined updated vector of node weights;

test for convergence; and

to repeatedly determine an updated vector of node weights and normalize the determined updated vector of node weights until the node weight converges to a determined hub weight.

~~a calculator configured to iteratively calculate a node backward weight, normalize the node backward weight, and test for convergence until the node backward weight converges to a constant value.~~

Claim 10 (Original): The system of Claim 7, said calculator comprising:

a calculator configured to calculate a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 7, further comprising:

a search term selection device connected to said calculator; and

a display connected to said calculator.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 7, further comprising:

a textual content ranking mechanism connected to said calculator.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method of searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, the improvement comprising:

determining one of

an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator and without using a Backward operator, and

a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator and without using a Forward operator; and
ranking said relevance based upon said one of an authority weight and a hub weight.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, wherein said determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for ~~said~~a node comprises:

choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~ are repeated until the node weight converges to determined authority weights~~a constant value~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, wherein said determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node comprises:

choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

testing for convergence, wherein said steps of determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ and normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~ are repeated until the node weight converges to determined hub weight~~a constant value~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance ~~further~~ comprising:

determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance ~~further~~ comprising:

selecting a search term.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, said step of ranking said relevance ~~further~~ comprising:

ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~A system for ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes~~The system of Claim 7, further comprising:

~~a calculator configured to calculate one of an authority-like weight for said node and a hub-like weight for said node, using, respectively, a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator and a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator [[,]] said calculations being mathematically decoupled; and~~

a relay module connected to said calculator and configured to relay a corresponding calculated ~~authority-like~~authority weight and ~~hub-like~~hub weight to a display.

Claims 20-24 (Cancelled):

Claim 25 (Original): A computer program product configured to host instructions corresponding to any one of the steps of Claims 1-6 and 13-18.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A system for searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, comprising:

means for determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator without using a Backward operator; ~~and~~

means for determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Forward operator [[,]] such that said means for determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight and said means for determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight ~~being~~are mathematically decoupled; ~~and~~

means for ranking said relevance based upon said authority weight and said hub weight.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 26, wherein said means for determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said~~of a node~~ comprises:

means for choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~ are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined authority weight~~a constant value~~.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 26, wherein said means for determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said~~of a node~~ comprises:

means for choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights~~the node weight~~; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights~~a node weight~~ and means for normalizing the determined updated

~~vector of node weights~~ ~~the node weight~~ are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to ~~determined hub weight~~ constant value.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking ~~further comprising:~~

means for determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking ~~further comprising:~~

means for selecting a search term; and

means for displaying a ranking result.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 26, said means for ranking ~~further comprising:~~

means for ranking the textual content of the node.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A system for searching, navigating or retrieving one or more information objects in one or more electronic archives and including ranking the relevance of a node in a linked set of nodes, the improvement comprising:

means for determining one of

~~an authority-like~~ authority weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator without using a Forward operator, and

~~a hub-like~~ hub weight for said node using a non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator without using a Backward operator; and

means for ranking said relevance based upon said one of an authority weight and a hub weight.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 32, wherein said means for determining an ~~authority-like~~authority weight for said~~of a~~ node comprises:

means for choosing a forward start vector of initial authority weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined authority weight.

~~means for choosing a forward start vector;~~

~~means for determining a node weight using the non-compound, non-normalized Forward operator;~~

~~means for normalizing the node weight; and~~

~~means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining a node weight and means for normalizing the node weight are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to a constant value.~~

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 32, wherein said means for determining a ~~hub-like~~hub weight for said~~of a~~ node comprises:

means for choosing a backward start vector of initial hub weights of each node in the linked set of nodes;

means for determining an updated vector of node weights using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;

means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights; and

means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining an updated vector of node weights and means for normalizing the determined updated vector of node weights are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to determined hub weight.

~~means for choosing a backward start vector;~~

~~means for determining a node weight using the non-compound, non-normalized Backward operator;~~

~~means for normalizing the node weight; and~~

~~means for testing for convergence, wherein said means for determining a node weight and means for normalizing the node weight are configured to repeat their respective operations until the node weight converges to a constant value.~~

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking further comprising:

means for determining a principal eigenvector of a matrix.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking further comprising:

means for selecting a search term.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 32, said means for ranking
~~further~~ comprising:
means for ranking the textual content of the node.